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County, industry look to beef up skilled trades

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County will have a hand in local workforce development.

And they're going straight to the high school to do it.

Steve Ovell, economic development and tourism director, brought the idea of a skilled trades partnership to county council when it met March 27. It's based on a partnership that was undertaken by the county and community industry partners last spring.

Haliburton County partnered with the Haliburton County Homebuilders Association (HCHBA) in May 2023 to host the first skilled trades bus tour. Thirty students went to five locations within the county to highlight skilled trades job opportunities.

"We view it more as it's really a workforce development program," Ovell said. "It gets some access for our home builders to get into the classroom and further support them."

Locations included Sunbelt Rentals, Holden Truss Plant, a construction site at 75 per cent completion, a completed timber frame home, and a large landscaping site.

Employers at each site were provided an opportunity to address the students and discuss the employment options within their sector and the stability of the jobs. The program was well received and will be run again this spring.

The hope is that from good things will come greater endeavours.

The implementation of the day-long course generated further discussion

regarding partnership opportunities in the future, particularly around creating more exposure of the skilled trades to the county's young people.

So the county, HCHBA, and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) began discussions last fall about such a partnership that will cover the fundamentals of framing and drywall installation as well as introduction to electrical work, including the basics of wiring switches and lights.

HCHBA members donated their time and materials to the HHSS skilled trades class as a method of connecting students to trades and apprenticeship opportunities. They had also engaged with math and co-op classes to discuss the importance of their curriculum to growth in the trades.

To help support the class and enhance its budget, the HCHBA donated more than \$3,000 in materials to the class to help further develop its programming.

"They've graciously donated a lot of their staff time and some financial resources," Ovell said. "If we can help support them so that they're not paying out of pocket to further enhance the program, that's our role in this."

The county would provide financial support to HCHBA to allow them to purchase additional materials, tools, and safety equipment to help enhance the projects and program.

In return HCHBA members would continue to donate their time and HHSS would invite them into the classroom of 22 students to assist with the hands-on work.

Instruction includes safety training

see PROGRAM page 2



Easter giggles

A young Maple Syrup Festival goer stops for a photo with the Easter Bunny at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce on Saturday, March 30. See more photos on page 4. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



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Habitat for Humanity looks to Haliburton County

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Habitat for Humanity wants to make a home in Haliburton County.

That is, Susan Zambonin told council when it met March 27, that Habitat for Humanity Peterborough and Kawartha Region (HHPK) wants to build homes in the county.

"We have not to date," said Zambonin, the group's CEO. "We've built in all the other areas of our service area."

Haliburton County staff are reviewing plans that could see as many as 60 housing units constructed, she said. And they've had a preliminary presentation about builds in Algonquin Highlands.

HHPK doesn't provide social, rental, or market housing. Rather, the organization helps individuals and families get affordable housing.

They saw the completion of a 41-unit condominium complex in April 2022 in Peterborough. That project doubled the number of families it served in its 20 years of existence, she said.

That was a \$15-million project they were able to build for \$10.6-million because of community partners.

"We see this as our future," Zambonin said.

She said it's difficult to find the land to accommodate the construction of single family homes.

"When you do, the cost is really prohibitive," she said. "There's such a great need, we need to serve more families."

As a result, Zambonin said HHPK will take the time necessary to work with municipalities to have land rezoned for high density projects.

"And we'll figure out a way to come up with the money to pay for it," she said.

Many people believe Habitat for Humanity gives away housing for free. That's a misconception that needs to be dispelled, she said. But they found a way to finance their builds.

The classic model was a no down payment, no interest mortgage held by Habitat with the construction financed by donations and previous homeowner payments. But it has become harder to finance properties as they build more homes amidst escalating interest rates and construction costs.

To alleviate that, the financial partner mortgage model was devised. That Kawartha Credit Union will provide a first mortgage for what the homeowner qualifies.

"We used to say that homeowners for Habitat didn't qualify for a conventional mortgage," she said. "But that's not really true."

Most people can qualify for some kind of a mortgage. What they can't get is a mortgage that'll enable them to buy in the current market. And then there's the down payment that becomes another obstacle.

"Our model takes that into consideration," Zambonin said.

If somebody can get a \$250,000 mortgage but the house costs \$400,000, HHPK will hold a second mortgage to cover the difference. And the homeowner only pays on the first mortgage to the credit union, she said.

That maintains the payments for the homeowner at 30 per cent of their income.

"Which means it's affordable to them, but they don't pay that second mortgage until they've either paid off their first mortgage or they sell their home and then they pay us back," she said.

Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, applauded HHPK's innovative approach to providing housing.

Councillor Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor, echoed Danielsen.

"You're targeting the right area of people and, in my view, these are the people that really need it," Fearrey said. "They work, they're contributing to the community. It's a win-win."

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux, who is the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, asked how Habitat manages to keep the houses lower than market value over many owners.

Zambonin said it's in the deed and the mortgage that Habitat has the right of first refusal to buy back the house.

"We almost always buy it back," Zambonin said.

Then Habitat finds another family and sells it to them with the same initial conditions.

Rotarians broach summer festival idea

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Haliburton Rotary Club is considering adding a summer festival to its fundraising efforts.

Rotarian Steve Roberts explained to Dysart council when it met March 26 plans for the proposed Haliburton Rotary Summer Festival Aug. 7 at Head Lake Park. Setup will begin a 3 p.m. with children's and family activities from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Music will run until 9 p.m.

The hope is that the Haliburton Rotary Summer Festival will be a family-focused event that will incorporate music, children's entertainment, games, crafts, buskers, and other sights and activities.

"We could potentially require more space on the tennis court side of the park if certain activities require space or water access," he said. "We wish to begin set up immediately after the weekly Farmer's Market."

Roberts said the Haliburton Rotary Summer Festival will be an expansion of the entertainment Rotary has provided over the past few years and is a replacement for the former Rotary Carnival.

"Keep in mind we use the band shell on Tuesdays for our popular Music in the Park series," said Rotarian Steve Roberts.

He said the club started in the 1940s and would hold at one time host carnivals. In the years since then, the club has partnered with Dysart on many endeavours which has led to a great working relationship, he said.

"We're a service club and we do fundraising," Roberts said. "And fundraising is way of giving back to the community."

Some of the proceeds from fundraising campaigns is kicked up the ladder to Rotary International. But most of it stays in the Haliburton County community.

Likely the greatest summer fundraiser for the club is the annual car draw. Last year, the grand prize was a Chevrolet Colorado 4x4 crew cab valued at about \$43,500.

The Haliburton Rotary Summer Festival will continue a tradition of the club's offerings of community fun. The former carnivals used to be a summer highlight until the COVID-19 pandemic brought many things to a screeching halt.

Ursula Devolin, who is also a club member, said community partners can offer activities that would appeal to children as well.

"We will be relying on the creativity and the human resources of community members to come in, create a game, and operate it," she said.

Program is needed, say councillors

from page 1

so students would be better prepared to start summer employment.

Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, wondered if the school board would kick in some resources for the program.

"It seems we are funding, the home builders are giving a lot of volunteer time, what's the school board doing?"

Carter said.

"School board obviously is funding the program through their budget," Ovell said. "The one number I couldn't get from them was the actual overall financial contribution that they put towards the class."

He said that one of the details that would be spelled out in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the county and the HCHBA. The MOU will formalize the partnership and outline the responsibilities and tracking procedures of each organization.

Should this partnership be a success, the program could expand into 2025.

Coun. Cecil Ryall, Highlands East's deputy mayor, said universities provide good educations, but more people in skilled trades is what's needed today. He wondered if more of the trades could be introduced at the high school level in future.

"This is the first step in the process," Ovell said. "If we're successful, it could be something that could be maybe duplicated or replicated in other areas of the province."

"I think we need to do more of this sort of thing," said Coun. Murray Fearrey, the mayor of Dysart.



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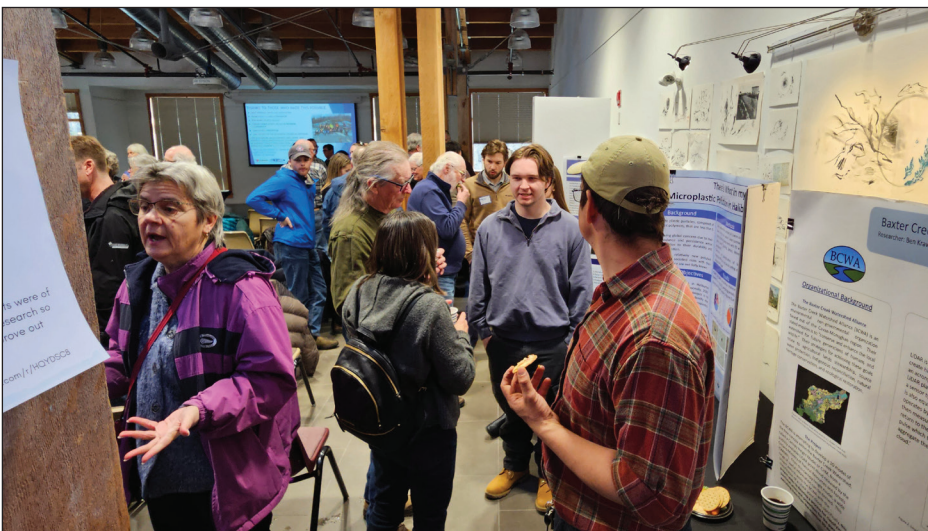


From left, Carmen Galea, Luba Cargill, and Wesley Ford represented the Apple Tree Identification Project on Saturday March 23 at the U-Links Celebration of Research, hosted at the Haliburton School of Art + Design.



Minds on research

Carmen Galea presented Long Forgotten Fruits: A Historical Context and Preliminary Inventory of Apple Trees in Haliburton County at the U-Links Celebration of Research Event on Saturday March 23. /THOMAS SMITH Staff



Students were very excited to discuss their projects that are associated with the U-Links Centre for Community Based Research at the Celebration of Research.



FoRT seeks Dysart support for bike hub grant application

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Friends of the Rail Trail group has an innovative idea for the repurposing of an underutilized community asset.

Pamela Marsales, chairperson of Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT), pitched the idea to Dysart council March 26 for a community bike hub at the municipally-owned caboose.

She said the proposed Caboose Community Bike Hub would bring an aspect of the region's heritage to life and encourage more people in Dysart and Haliburton Village to consider cycling.

While it would be a community-collaborative effort, Marsales asked that Dysart be the lead applicant for an Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed Grant to launch a one-year pilot of the bike hub.

"Our caboose currently sits sad and forlorn in the village welcome centre parking area," she said. "This could be a one-year low risk trial to give it purpose."

Depending on the venture's success, this first step could lead to three-year Grow Grant from the foundation, she said.

"The project would raise heritage awareness," Marsales said. "And we have proponents in the community that are keen to kick start a paint the caboose campaign and bring it back to its glory."

A community bike hub is a place for cyclists to meet for skills workshops,



guided rides, and children's programming.

"Kids can learn about bikes within a confidence-building social context," she said. "Children's bike skills learned young last a lifetime."

Adults would be able to benefit through building social connections based on a common interest and by staying active.

Marsales said it's hoped the project would encourage more in-town biking to carry out errands. That would reduce car traffic in town.

There are a number of local clubs, organizations, and group on board to write letters of support for the grant application.

Mayor Murray Fearrey said he believes

it's a great idea.

"Do you see any conflict with the kids riding bikes in the park when people are walking?" he said. "When they're learning to ride."

"There might be a little wobbling around, but a child on a bike three feet off the ground is not a great threat," Marsales said. "No, I don't see it being a conflict."

The Friends of the Rail Trail are looking to create a bike hub at the caboose in Haliburton at Head Lake Park. /FILE

A sweet Saturday

Lots of sweet treats filled the Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce on Saturday for Highlands East's annual Maple Syrup Festival for Easter. All-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage were available with delicious local maple syrup, and after filling up, visitors could check out the flea market and craft sale. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



New county-wide burning by-law takes effect

A new Open Air Burning Bylaw came into effect across the municipalities of Haliburton County on Monday, April 1. Jointly created by the County's four Chief Fire Officials and adopted by each of its lower-tier municipal councils, the new by-law establishes consistent burning regulations throughout the County and introduces some new provisions.

A major change introduced in the new by-law is the elimination of daytime burning during the fire season, which runs from April 1 to October 31 each year. Previously, daytime burn permits were available in order to set open air fires during this time period.

The 2023 wildfire season was the most destructive ever recorded in Canada, and the decision to eliminate daytime burning during the fire season was made with heightened public safety in mind. Contractors who may find it necessary to carry out daytime burning during this time period are asked to contact their local fire department in order to make arrangements.

Open air fires for cooking or warmth may be set between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. and between the dates of April 1 and October 31, so long as they are small, confined and supervised at all times. According to the provisions of the by-law, such fires must be smaller than .6 metres in diameter; must be confined within a fire pit or appliance; must be completely extinguished when use is complete; and must comply with all other conditions of the by-law.

Please note that fires for cooking or warmth are *not* permitted during a fire ban. The Open Air Burning By-Law in its entirety can be viewed [here](#).

For more information, please contact your local fire chief.

Submitted

Dysart fire chief Dan Chumbley adjusts the fire metre on April 1 in Haliburton following the commencement of the Open Air Burning bylaw.
/DAVID ZILSTRA Staff



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points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir



Wholesome moments

I REMEMBER writing about glimmers in an editorial a year ago. It must be the spring stirring up glimmers here, there and everywhere because I've been thinking about them a lot.

Maybe I'll make it an annual thing because there's nothing more perfect in the whole world.

It's "fluffy" but one of the most important things I could write about.

You know them - those little moments of joy that arise from being human and experiencing life on a beautiful floating rock.

They aren't what make our society chug along - that's unfortunately what money is for.

But, they are what keep us going as individuals that crave peace and love (it's Ringo Starr's catchphrase for a reason. Don't forget to say it out loud on July 7).

They're the opposite of triggers, which are moments that evoke a negative reaction within us due to past traumas.

Glimmers can be something beautiful that catches our eye in nature, but the ones that have stuck with me over the past few weeks are wholesome moments between humans.

I'm particularly amazed by interactions between people that don't necessarily have a lot in common.

Take Head Lake Park, for example. On every single sunny day, there are likely almost 100 people gathered at the new digs.

Caregivers bring their kids to play. "Going to the park" is just as it was - how many decades has it been a favourite activity for families?

It's heartwarming to know its charm hasn't diminished at all.

No amount of technology or new shows or video games can take the place of a good playground on a bright day.

Not only do children get exposure to their peers and have a chance to make new friends, but also adults have a similar opportunity.

It's a space that brings together all people in the area, regardless of profession or income level.

Everyone is equal at the park, having a shared experience of joy.

Humans have a special way of using laughter and humour to cope with life's struggles.

It's one of the most beautiful things about us.

While driving home yesterday, I was worrying about this and that. The Sunday scaries had hit.

But I drove past a house on a back road where a kid was outside, playing tag with their dog while the sun was setting.

Their laughter could be heard through my car windows.

I drove a little further and came across a couple out for a walk.

They were strangers but still waved and smiled at me.

It was a small gesture to share their own joy and kindness with another.

Just last weekend, I was staying in Toronto by the airport to attend the Cottage Life show.

If you ever need to experience uplifting glimmers, people watching near an airport is the place to see them.

Big hugs outside of a cab, jokes with strangers in an elevator, giggling at a kid dancing in the lobby - we're all more alike than we are different.

Those moments are the ones that make up a beautiful life.

Big milestones are nice, but one day we'll all wish we appreciated and noticed the glimmers of everyday life.

Like John Lennon said, "Life's what happens when you're busy making other plans."



vivian collings

Editorial



Ice slowly disappears on Big Hawk Lake.

by Vivian Collings

No one dances alone

WE SIT together quietly. Some of us are in person, and most are online on Zoom. We do some movements to bring some love to our bodies.

We welcome everything that each of us brings to the gathering. Our fatigue, our joy, our quiet minds, our busy minds, our fears, our love. After we move, we sit down, and imagine ourselves sitting in a circle, connected as we breathe together for our own well being and the well being of all.

We all love these little rituals we have. They connect us and anchor us to something larger than each of us.

They help us remember that we are not the small "I" that has to do life alone. Instead, each of us is bigger than that, we are a vast presence of love that is moving through the world. We are connected and we belong.

And we can take the love that we are to every circumstance that comes our way. On this particular day, one of the group members, M, tells us about her friend, P, who has an aggressive form of cancer and is alone as she goes through her treatments in Toronto.

M tells us that P is so loved, a gardener, a golfer, a lover of music, theatre and her church. We listen and then our little group in Haliburton creates an intention that we will hold for P, from a distance.

We want her to know that we are breathing with her, and thinking of her as she does her treatments. She is not alone. Our intention is that she can feel and remember that as

she goes through her treatments.

We all know so many people who have cancer or who have had it. In our lovely county we are lucky to have the Abbey Retreat Centre (ARC) who provides online and in person retreats for people living with cancer and their caregiver.

ARC holds a very loving space for people to rest, process, make art, do yoga, walk in the woods, connect and really be looked after. ARC is a very special place and relies on donations to offer the programs and retreats.

On April 12 two local bands are

joining together to provide an evening of music, dancing and community to raise money for ARC. Adverse Conditions and PriMates will be at the Haliburton Legion for a chili dinner and then some great music to listen to, or to dance to. Adverse Conditions is an 11 piece, Highlands Soul Band.

PriMates is a four-piece funk reggae band with vocals,

bass, guitar, cornet and drums with a wide selection of energetic, danceable and iconic songs to listen to, or get you on your feet and moving.

The evening is a great way to have some fun and connect, and raise money for an important cause. Tickets are \$30 can be purchased on the ARC website at www.abbeyretreat-centre.ca.

The ticket includes vegetarian or beef chilli. The doors and bar will open at 6 p.m. and it will be an energizing night!

No one dances alone. Hope to see you there.

Tales from the great



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Green meadow

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points of view

When one door opens

THE INCIDENT I am about to describe happened a few weeks ago, but it has taken me this long to process – which is, if nothing else, a clear indication of how fast my mind works these days.

I was driving through town early one evening and there, walking casually on the sidewalk ahead of me, was a young man who stood out from the crowd.

What set him apart? It could have been his purposeful stride. It might have been his determined look. But I think it was mostly because he was hunched over and carrying a door on his back. A full-sized one too. I believe it was an exterior one, but I'm not sure that matters.

For he was not carrying it to a waiting vehicle, and he was at least 50 yards from any house, and 100 yards or more from any store that sold doors. Basically, where he came from and where he was going was a mystery. The only thing for certain was he was carrying a door.

My immediate impulse was to pull over and tell him a knock-knock joke or two. But I did not – and I believe that when I am on my death bed and someone asks me my one great regret, this will be it.

Then again, knock-knock jokes might have been inappropriate. Maybe – and this is purely conjecture – he was just a huge Jim Morrison fan, or a member of a Doors cover band who took things just a little too far.

Or, and I don't say this lightly, I might have been witnessing a crime? Is anyone missing a front door? If so, I believe I could pick the kid out in a police line-up.

I can just imagine it now.

"Mr. Galea, look closely. Do you recognize the person?"

"Yes, detective," I'd say nervously. "That's him, second from the right – the guy with the door on his back."

But I don't know what the point would be. There's obviously no institution that could hold him in.

Of course, I don't believe this was a crime. The kid did not appear to be furtive. Although, I will point out, it is hard to be furtive when you are hunched over carrying a door on your back.

At one point, I thought he might be a professional mover working for a really cheap company, but then I thought better.

This left me to wonder if he was just doing this recreationally.

So, when I got home that night, I immediately asked Jenn if there were any new TikTok crazes that called for kids to carry doors on their backs in public? She just laughed, until I reminded her that, in the old days, doors were made from planks. And not all that long ago, planking was popular on TikTok.

Still, the answer was no.

So, I may never know why this young man was carrying a door.

I mean he could have been a door-to-door salesman who took things too literally – but that seems like a stretch.

Lastly, some of you might be wondering why I didn't offer help. I could have asked him if he needed a ride and placed the door in the back of my vehicle. Well, I was in a rush to get where I'm going.

And, frankly, the whole situation seemed a little unhinged.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

In 1952 Rideout Real Estate Limited of Peterborough was approached by lawyer Jim Dunn and his business partner Jack Hayward, who recently had purchased a large tract of land from Clayton Hodgson and would be developed and offered to the public as a cottage and lakeshore package for \$2,500. Ernest Rideout Real Estate was to be appointed exclusive agents for this project. It was disclosed on Jan. 5, 1953 in a news release on the front page of the Toronto Star and the Telegram, that the \$2 million project would include a shopping centre (to serve up to 5000 summer residents) and would contain a general store, service station, motel, boat livery and airplane docking facilities. There would be 800 cottages built on at least 100 feet of shoreline fronting on what would now be called Haliburton Lake (formerly known as Crooked Lake). Rideout Real Estate featured the properties for sale at the first Canadian Hobby and Home Craft Show, held at the CNE Coliseum, Feb. 6, 1953, following an extensive advertising campaign in the Toronto daily newspapers. The promoter of the show donated space for a model cottage, using this as a drawing card to the new event. At the show, more than 100 deposits of \$100 were taken on cottage sites, unseen. Approximately 300 future vacation property home owners were brought to Haliburton that May on a steam powered CNR passenger train chartered by the developers, and then transported to Haliburton Lake via coach bus, chartered from Colonial Bus Lines. Once they arrived at Haliburton Lake, they were ferried around the lake by salesmen in cars and boats to see what they had bought. /FILE

Tips to combat ticks and lyme disease

Warmer weather is coming, and the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR District Health Unit) is urging residents to be vigilant against ticks and Lyme disease.

Ticks, particularly blacklegged ticks, live in wooded areas, tall grasses, and bushes. Although they are primarily active in spring and summer, ticks can be found any time of year when the temperature is above freezing. Blacklegged ticks will act like hitchhikers, settling on tall grasses and bushes until they can attach to a passing person or animal. Once attached, ticks will feed on the host's blood. These ticks can carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, which can cause serious health issues if left untreated.

To reduce the risk of tick bites, follow these tips:

- Wear light-colored clothing to make ticks easier to spot.
- Use closed footwear and socks, and long-sleeve shirts tucked into long pants. Tuck pants into socks for added protection.
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin on clothes and exposed skin. Follow manufacturer instructions carefully.
- Regularly check for ticks on the body. Pay special attention to areas like the groin, belly

button, armpits, head, behind ears, and knees. Don't forget to check children and pets.

- Take a shower as soon as possible after outdoor activities to wash off any ticks.
- Kill ticks on clothing by placing them in a dryer on high heat for at least 10 minutes before washing.

If a blacklegged tick is attached for 24 hours or more, or if it appears enlarged, remove the tick and seek medical attention right away. If you don't remember having a tick but have recently visited a tick-prone area and you develop symptoms of Lyme disease, seek medical help. Early symptoms may include a ring-like rash, fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, and fatigue. The HKPR District Health Unit no longer accepts ticks for testing, but you can still identify ticks using the free eTick website. Here's how it works. Submit a photo of a tick and within 48 hours, you'll receive a notification if the tick is the type that may spread Lyme disease. Based on the results, you can figure out the next steps, including whether to see a healthcare provider.

For more information on Ticks and Lyme disease visit, hkpr.on.ca/FightTheBite.

Submitted by the HKPR District Health Unit

Storm U13 keep marching on

The Walker's Heating and Cooling Highland Storm U13 Rep team continued their epic "March" toward the OMHA championships this past Friday with a stunning win in game three against the Lindsay Muskies. The victory was even sweeter, considering that the leading point scorer, Travis Rowe, was unavailable.

The Storm began their series against Lindsay, with Captain Henry Neilson punching home two goals in the first two periods to keep the Storm within reach in game one. Lucas Vale stepped up with a 270-degree spinning backhand in the third to level the game at three before Linus Gervais took a pass from Brycen Harrison to net the winner.

Game two saw an outstanding defensive battle, with goalie Blake Hutchinson turning away all of Lindsay's efforts after the Muskies took a 1-0 lead. A tying goal from Tyler Hughes pushed the game into OT, where the Storm hit the post and crossbar multiple times but couldn't put the game away. After two overtime periods, the Muskies defeated the Storm 2-1 in a shootout, setting the stage for game 3.



Highland Storm's U13 team proudly wear their first place medals after becoming the OMHA Victoria-Durham league champions. /Submitted

The Muskies came to Minden ready to play in the final decisive game and were all over the Storm in the first period. The seesaw battle again saw some fantas-

tic play, with Levi Rowe, Hudson Meyer and Hawksley Dobbins standing firm on defence and Jaxon Hurd and Chase Kerr providing continuous pressure on the Muskie's Goalie. Cruise Neave and Lyla Degeer continued with solid efforts, consistently forcing the play back into the Lindsay zone. The Storm entered the third tied 2-2 with both goals by Brycen Harrison. Harrison picked up the hat trick in the third to put the Storm ahead once and for all and to secure a berth in the Tier One OMHA championships in Kingston, April 5-8. Marshall Heasman, who collected two playoff shutouts in the previous round, was ready if needed.

The Storm coaches and manager - Scott Neilson, Cynthia Hutchinson, Marcus Rowe, Shawn Walker and James Rielly - thank the community for their incredible support this year. The air horns and cheering were likely heard for miles as the parents and fans rocked the house!

Look out, Kingston, a Storm is rolling in.

Submitted by Mike Gervais



The Highland Storm U13 team were practicing hard last week at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena before heading to the first tier of the OMHA Championships in Kingston this weekend. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



Two-year CCAA winning streak for Dobson and team

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Jacob Dobson has once again skipped the Humber men's curling team to victory at the college level.

For the second year in a row, Dobson and his team are the reigning gold medalists of the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association national curling championship.

It came down to Dobson, the team captain's, last shot. It had to be a double take-out to secure first place.

"Honestly, most of that shot is a complete blur. Overall, the game was very back-and-forth," said the Haliburton local. "Mohawk started the game with Hammer. We did a great job forcing them in the first end. We were able to score two in the third end then took back-to-back steals of one going into the mid-game break."

Then, Mohawk College's team fought to tie the game.

"The last end didn't get set up exactly how we wanted it. We knew I would likely have some sort of hit or runback, or a draw to the button for the win. That's exactly what happened," Dobson said.

This year's tournament was in Fredericton, New Brunswick from March 12 to 16.

The team focused on each game in front

of them rather than adding pressure to win the title again.

With a difficult start to their first game of the tournament and giving up a steal of 5, they pulled off a win "and didn't look back."

The Humber men won all their games but one.

"Overall, the tournament was great. Our only loss was to Mohawk in another game that came down to the last shot," Dobson said.

He said Concordia College is the only other school to have won a back-to-back first place curling title in the men's division.

"Most of our team is returning next year. We have our eyes on being the first CCAA team to win three championships in a row.

Dobson started his curling career on home ice in Haliburton with the Youth Curling Program.

"The group of coaches that ran that program helped me fall in love with curling. It was amazing to see familiar names from Haliburton social media, sending texts and emails, and following on the live streams," he said.

Winning the national college title means Dobson's team will travel to Calgary in September for the 2024 Pointsbet Invitational.

"This event has the top teams in Can-

ada competing for \$350,000," he said. "It's still only just starting to kick in."

Dobson is in his third year of justice

studies and police foundations at the University of Guelph-Humber.



Dobson's team hold up their winning banner./Submitted



Jacob Dobson, skip for the Humber College men's team, threw the winning rock to secure his team the first-place title at the CCAA national curling championships in New Brunswick on March 16. /Photo submitted

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Creative minds

Annabelle Borgdorff with her work *The Things We Miss*, which was awarded the Best In Show award at the Under 19 student exhibition at the Bancroft Art Gallery. The Jurors described Annabelle's work as having "very unusual and insightful conceptual elements." "Beautiful use of paint and ink show the artist's proficiency in their chosen medium." /Submitted by Karen Gervais



Hal High student Hailie Embury received second-place in the Painting and Mixed Media category as well as the Creativity and Concept award for her playful acrylic painting, right, *How It Actually Happened*.



Ceinwyn Mathura's work *Inspiration From The Heart* won first place in the Painting and Mixed Media category. The Jurors described the work as "well conceived with various mixed materials and painted pieces bringing wonderful colour and movement. Juxtaposed elements are creatively thought out providing dramatic impact and visual interest."



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School artists Emma Bush, Alivia Brown and Annabelle Borgdorff at the opening reception of the Art Gallery of Bancroft's Under 19 exhibition on Friday, March 15. Brown's watercolour painting of *The Reid House* is featured in the centre of the photograph.



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Hal High Monthly

Hal High Monthly is written by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School leadership class featuring monthly school news.

What's new at Hal High?

By Autumn Winder, Grade 12, and
Carmen Horner-Xerri Grade 12

Throughout March, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School hosted numerous exciting events and activities to keep students engaged and entertained during the academic semester. Despite the interruption of the March break, the school continued to prioritize creating a fun learning environment for all students.

The leadership class at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School organized various sports, activities, and themed days, encouraging students to dress in specific colors to support meaningful causes. This month, our central theme day aimed at raising awareness was International Women's Day. Students at HHSS showed their support by wearing purple, symbolizing women's achievements locally and globally. "I wore a purple shirt for International Women's Day but to be honest, the shirt didn't matter to me because I think that women should be represented and respected every day," said student Cole Hamilton.

Mrs. Dobson also said, "I think it's definitely an important day and we should do more about it." As we move beyond International Women's Day, it is important for us all to remember the significance of both quotations. Let's not confine our acknowledgment to just one day; rather, let's embrace a daily practice of celebrating and valuing women.

Another loveable event this March was the teacher versus students badminton games where students had the chance to play one of our very talented and competitive gym teachers: Mr. Gaffney, Mrs. Scheffee, and Mr. Ernst. The students fought hard to beat the teachers but did not come out victorious. The teachers beat the students, scoring a total of nine wins while the students won only three. Events like this are becoming the norm running every other Wednesday at lunch with new teachers to face off against each time. Basketball fans get ready!

Another thing happening in the sports world of HHSS is the announcement of the reestablishment of our Boys Rugby Team, marking a significant return to the sport after an absence since 2012. When asked the question "What do you think

is the most interesting thing happening in the school right now?" Clark Turner replied "They (HHSS) are having a rugby team for the first time in a while which is going to be cool," demonstrating exceptional school spirit and further showcasing how much students enjoy watching and encouraging our school teams and representing the Red Hawks.

As the festive season rolled on, the leadership class of HHSS prepared a school-wide easter egg hunt, available to all students who wished to participate. Easter eggs were hidden around the school and once found could be exchanged for prizes and points for their school team. However, there's a twist: one special golden egg was hidden and when found could be handed in for the biggest prize the HHSS Egg Hunt had to offer. During the hunt students were searching the bookshelves of the library and all throughout the school where they suspected eggs may be hiding. Keith Bailey-McLeod said, "This month in March, I am really excited for the Easter egg hunt... I really want that golden egg, Dude." Keith showed his passion for the Easter spirit with his ambition to find the golden egg

in the school-wide search.

Outside of school, we had an interruption of the March break from the 11th to the 15th. Numerous students and teachers took advantage of the break to indulge in vacations or engage in enjoyable activities at home. Here are a selection of their personal accounts, providing insight into their experiences beyond the classrooms of HHSS. "I had a nice family trip with my wife and my son down in South Carolina. It was great," said Mr. Longo. Over the March break, Veronica Beynon celebrated her 18th birthday. She said, "I turned 18, so I went to a nice restaurant in Toronto with my mom and I went to go see the musical *Six* at Mirvish theater." Many others at HHSS shared the fun things that went on during their March breaks. Regardless of their itineraries, it was a refreshing time away, for both our hardworking students and teachers alike.

HHSS had a vibrant month filled with both fun and educational activities. Ms. Carr and her leadership class led many of these initiatives and with April and May on the way, we eagerly anticipate more exciting experiences and sunny days ahead.

Quoi de neuf à Hal High?

Par Sofia Scott, 12^e année, et Téa Yates, 11^e année

Pendant la mois de Mars, il n'y avait pas beaucoup d'événements dans l'école de HHSS, mais les un qui a passé était très importants! Premièrement, la classe de leadership a travaillé fort pour augmenter le pourcentage de participation esprit d'école dans HHSS. On a divisé les cours dans les groupes pour créer une compétition avec des prix et des punitions.

Notre première jour d'esprit était la journée nationale de la femme. Les élèves et les professeurs ont montré leur appréciation en portant des vêtements violets et blancs. Un élève en douzième année, Kaelem Little, a dit, "les femmes les plus inspirantes dans ma vie sont ma mère, Barb et Taylor Swift, pour leurs ambitions dans leur vie."

Pour Pâques, la classe de leadership a planifié une semaine de Pâques pour les élèves de HHSS. Ils ont caché les œufs autour de l'école pour que les élèves trouvent et les échangent pour les petits chocolats. Jeudi, ils ont porté des couleurs pastel pour Pâques et on a aussi vu les personnes qui portaient des chaussettes funky pour la journée de syndrome de Down.

Les vacances de mars ont permis aux élèves et aux professeurs d'avoir une pause durant le semestre. Beaucoup d'élèves ont voyagé! Un élève a dit, "J'ai voyagé au Roatan.". Des autres élèves sont restés proches de leur maison, comme un autre élève qui a dit, "Pendant la pause, j'ai visité ma famille

à Collingwood pendant la semaine". Le vacances de mars était une chance de se détendre avant les midterms et une chance de célébrer le jour de St. Patrick.

Après la pause, le football pour filles a commencé officiellement, coachée par Ms. Scheffee. Il y a des pratiques dans les matins et après l'école et beaucoup de filles sont enthousiastes pour le début du football.

Une autre de nos sports qui a commencé ce mois-ci à HHSS est l'athlétisme. Il y a des pratiques après l'école pour préparer leur première rencontre d'athlétisme!

La première pratique de Badminton a commencé avant les vacances de mars. L'équipe junior prépare pour leur premier match le 4 avril qui se déroule à HHSS. Les seniors ont leur premier match au Fenelon Falls le 2 Avril. Il y avait aussi un petit match entre les professeurs et les élèves le 20 mars. Les professeurs ont gagné 8-3.

Des étudiants d'art ont participé dans l'exposition annuelle des étudiants avec la Galerie d'Art de Bancroft. Annabelle Borgdorff a gagné le prix de "Meilleure de l'Exposition". Sur sa pièce, elle a dit, "C'est un dessin en perspective surréaliste. Quand on est jeune, nous prenons pour acquis la magie qui nous entoure. On doit souviens d'arrêter, réfléchir, et reconnaître la beauté qui nous entoure."

Avec tous les sports et les événements intéressants dans ce mois, on a vu beaucoup de participation avec les élèves et les professeurs. Nous espérons que le mois prochain va être rempli avec l'esprit d'école!

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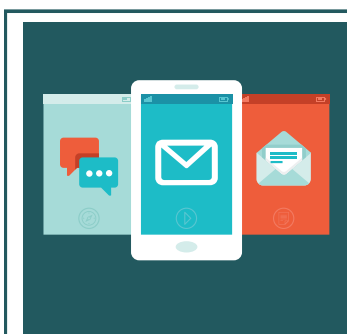
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- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. A minute amount (British)
 - 5. Mystical or magical
 - 11. Shortening
 - 14. More satisfying
 - 15. Other side
 - 18. Philippine island
 - 19. More unnatural
 - 21. Mutual savings bank
 - 23. Famed designer Chanel
 - 24. Makes less wild
 - 28. At some prior time
 - 29. The cops who investigate the cops
 - 30. Immune system response
 - 32. Distress signal
 - 33. Engine additive
 - 35. "No Scrubs" trio
 - 36. Very fast airplane
 - 39. A reward (archaic)
 - 41. Commercial
 - 42. Spots where golfers start
 - 44. Polite form of address (Indian)
 - 46. French river
 - 47. Reduce the light
 - 49. Blood-sucking fly
 - 52. A way to categorize
 - 56. Procrastinates
 - 58. Tall slender tower
 - 60. Where researchers work
 - 62. Office of the Pope
 - 63. Office furnishing
- 4. Clip
 - 5. In a way, misleads
 - 6. Human gene
 - 7. The Golden State (abbr.)
 - 8. Lizard genus
 - 9. Parasites that invade the skin
 - 10. Took apart
 - 12. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
 - 13. S. California town
 - 16. Suffix plural
 - 17. Painting technique
 - 20. Small Eurasian deer
 - 22. Mr. T character
 - 25. Microsoft
 - 26. Shock therapy
 - 27. Able to be sold
 - 29. A doctrine
 - 31. These three follow A
 - 34. Pulse
 - 36. Quantitative fact
 - 37. Doctor __: children's book author
 - 38. Hebrew calendar month
 - 40. Designated hitter
 - 43. Norther Poland village
 - 45. A passport is one form
 - 48. Hand (Spanish)
 - 50. Hit with the open hand
 - 51. Actor Idris
 - 53. Shakespeare's nickname "The __"
 - 54. Northern U.S. lake
 - 55. Marvin and Horsley are two
 - 57. Soak
 - 58. Partner to cheese
 - 59. Expression of disappointment
 - 61. College dorm employee
- CLUES DOWN

 - 1. Possesses
 - 2. American Board of Orthopedic Surgery
 - 3. Ancient Syrian city

Answers on page 15



Volunteers serve up a variety of meats at HHOA's Wild Game Dinner on Saturday, March 23 at the Haliburton Legion. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Wild game dinner a huge success, says HHOA president

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

"The wild game dinner was another big success," says Dan Smith, president of the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA). "Everybody had a great time, had plenty of great food to eat, and the silent auction was a success."

While the HHOA is still awaiting the final number of funds raised, Smith says that it will be over the \$10,000 mark.

While Smith considers last year's wild game dinner a success, Smith estimates that this year's dinner raised around \$4,000 more than 2023.

"All the businesses and private citizens, donations of wild game by hunters, and volunteers of the HHOA and the Legion. Everything came together. I can't emphasize just how positive of an experience it was," says Smith.

"By the time I ate at 8:30, it was gone," says Smith with a laugh. "It was really, really well prepared."

Smith says the success of the wild game dinner heavily relied on Dan Johnson's experience and expertise.

"He's been doing it for well over 20 years," says Smith.

Smith sends his gratitude to Johnson and his wife Laurie for their help and culinary mastery of wild game.

"You can't keep up with them," says Smith with a laugh.

"It was so good," says Smith. "I didn't get any of the arctic char, but my wife and I prepared it."

The HHOA has big plans for this year. The HHOA's annual walleye watch will begin soon at the Drag River near Emmerson Lumber in Haliburton. Typically, the walleye watch begins at the start of April and runs to around April 20.

"The way the ice is going off the lakes, it might be sooner than that," says Smith.

To conduct the walleye watch, HHOA members and volunteers use high powered flashlights to reflect light off the

walleye's eyes. Often, over 200 walleyes are counted each night. The Drag River is one of the most important walleye spawning sites in the county.

In collaboration with the MNRF, the HHOA uses the data collected to compare to the previous year's walleye population and to see where spawning sites are needed.

In the future, the HHOA hopes to raise walleye at their hatchery, says Smith.

"The survival rate of our hatchery is really good compared to natural spawning," says Smith.

Smith says that in the wild, only 1 in 1000 fish survive to adulthood. Eggs raised at the hatchery have a 60 to 70 per cent survival rate.

The HHOA has people checking the water conditions of the Drag River, as walleye require specific water conditions to spawn.

"They need enough water to cover their spawning shoals for them to breed," says Smith.

In late April to early May, the HHOA will be releasing around 30,000 fingerlings into surrounding water bodies. These fingerlings include rainbow trout and lake trout, including the lake trout strain Haliburton Gold.

The fish that will be released this year were collected in Oct. of 2022, with the hatchery raising the fish for 18 months.

In June, the HHOA is looking forward to attending the Haliburton Home & Cottage Show.

In July, the HHOA will be resurrecting their Family Fun Day at the Hatchery. This event will offer tours of the facility, have games for kids, and a fishing pond.

"We always encourage new members and volunteers at the HHOA," says Smith. "For members, it's a good way to stay healthy."

"It is a big building that needs maintenance. There is always something to do. Volunteers can stay as busy as they want to be. You do what you can, when you can."



Horsing around

Abbey Gardens' resident horses and ponies greeted guests of Easter at the Gardens on Saturday, March 30. The day featured an Easter Egg hunt, cookie decorating, crafts, visits with ponies, photos with the Easter Bunny, and a scavenger hunt. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo






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HHLT hosts Animal Tracks and Scat

RICK WHITTEKER

Special to the Echo

A cold, clear day and an overnight snowfall provided the perfect setting for an Animal Tracks and Scat for Children Discover Day workshop. Hosted by Abbey Gardens at the Gathering Place, this workshop is a Haliburton Highlands Land Trust educational offering geared to youngsters on March 23. Grandparents and parents accompanied their kids on this fun and engaging look at animal sign, especially tracks and scat.

The morning starting with a story featuring Finn, a girl, and her drowsy dog Skeeter, on their outdoor explorations. Their rambles lead them to a wide variety on animal tracks and their droppings, inadvertently collected on the bottom of Finn's boot! The book reading was proceeded by the sharing of the Scat Rap which goes like this:

It starts with an S.
And ends with a T.
It comes out of you and it comes out of me!
I know what you're thinking.
Don't be like that!
Be scientific and call it SCAT!

The book reading was followed by learning about the clues to being an animal track detective. The number of toes, the location, the behaviour and the gait were all explored. Demonstrating the four main movement patterns: pacers, diagonal walkers, bounders and gallopers presented a challenge to anyone who is not a contortionist, much to the delight of the workshop participants!

Track booklets were handed out soon after. Etching plates and rubberized track and scat samples were spread out over three tables. Crayon etchings of a variety of prints of the common wildlife of Haliburton County were completed in these take home booklets.

It soon was time to get outdoors! The recent snowfall allowed the group to identify several tracks including the galloping gait of a cottontail rabbit and red squirrel, the three-toed track of a ruffed grouse and the straight-line diagonal walk of a red fox. A tricky bounding weasel



Participants of HHLT's Tracks and Scat hold up their booklet after a fun day of learning. /RICK WHITTEKER Special to the Echo

track was also found, likely a pine marten looking for meal on the ground.

The program was concluded by doing an animal print caste in clay. No messy powder and water needed, the moulding clay is easily flattened on wax paper using a small roller and a preset critter track was pressed into the clay. The kids could choice from eight moulded sample

tracks, from the striped skunk to the black bear. Drying within 24 hours, this take away gave the kids a souvenir from their time learning about animal tracks.

A fun day of learning to be a track detective was enjoyed by both kids and adults, a result of the wonderful collaboration between Abbey Gardens and the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.



The Lodown at the Hook

Benton Brown and the Lodown (Nick Russell and Justin McHugh) put on a stunning performance for Hook, Line & Sinker customers on Friday, March 29. Follow @bentonbrownlodown on Instagram for band updates and gigs, and follow @thehookhaliburton for future restaurant events. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



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540 COMING EVENTS

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED and will take place April 3, 4 & 5 7:30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at the High School in Haliburton, and April 6 at 2 p.m. Presented by Highlands Little Theatre. Tickets available at Up River Trading, Minden & Haliburton. Friends please accept this as the only intimation.

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- Enjoys building relationships and working in a collaborative environment?
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- Is passionate about innovative cancer programming and excited to help build a supportive and committed donor community?

A full job description can be found at:
<https://abbeyretreatcentre.ca/work-with-us/>

Interested individuals are invited to email a cover letter and resume to:

Barb Smith-Morrison, Executive Director
barb@abbeyretreatcentre.ca
by April 12, 2024

Onondaga Camp, Minden, seeks Cleaning Services

2 Summer Staff - \$20.00/hr



We are looking for Cleaners to care for our facilities by providing a high standard of cleaning and light maintenance duties. The goal is to keep all facilities in a clean and orderly condition. Responsibilities are to clean and stock designated facility areas (disinfecting, dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, restroom cleaning etc.), carry out heavy cleansing tasks and special projects, notify management of occurring deficiencies or needs for repairs, stock and maintain supply rooms, cooperate with the rest of the staff, follow all health and safety regulations, knowledge of cleaning chemicals and supplies, familiarity with Material Safety Data Sheets. Up to 40 hour work week Summer (5 days, Scheduled Weekends). Daily and Evening shifts available. (June-Sept) NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED

If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at matt@onondagacamp.com. Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)

A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.

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Camp Timberlane is a co-ed residential summer camp for campers aged 6 – 16. For more information about the camp, visit us at www.Camptimberlane.ca

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Two positions available are available for Maintenance and Grounds Keeping.

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Housekeeping/Laundry - Full Time, Temporary, Contract

Two positions available for Housekeeping and Laundry.

Responsibilities include: cleaning of all buildings, accommodations, washrooms, shower facilities and common areas throughout the camp, including the turnover of living space throughout camp and overall upkeep of camp facilities. Cleaning and light maintenance duties include, but not limited to sweeping, mopping, cleaning, painting and replenishing supplies needed for showers and washrooms.

Expected Start date: April 1, 2024

Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment. Salary Range: Both Housekeeping/Laundry and Maintenance/Grounds keeping: \$17.50 - \$19.50 per hour based on experience. **Submit resume by email to Jay@camptimberlane.ca**



Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub
Mental Health and Substance Use Clinician



One Year Contract

Working with a multidisciplinary team, the Clinician will provide therapeutic interventions and addiction/harm reduction supports to youth, ages 12-25, using evidenced-based practices and a client-centered approach. They will provide timely, responsive, evidence-based treatment and clinical supports, including but not limited to solution-focused narrative therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, and motivational interviewing.

Qualifications

Bachelor/Master of Social Work, Psychology, or related degree, or an equivalent combination of work experience and education. Current Certificate of Registration with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW) or current registration with The College of Psychotherapy. Minimum 2 years' experience working in a related position preferred, ideally in a community-based setting. Experience working with black youth and people of color, First Nations, Métis and Inuit and LGBTQ+ peoples are an asset. Willingness and ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends.

We recognize that equitable access to employment is an agent in social change. We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders, and sexual orientation.

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Please visit www.pointintime.ca for more details and send resume by April 15, 2024 to:

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Herbert Debes

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at Highland Wood on March 26, 2024 in his 89th year, surrounded by his loving family. Gentle smiles right to the end. He will be greatly missed by the caring staff at Highland Wood and all the volunteers who brightened his last few years. Herb greatly believed he would be reunited with his lifetime friend and wife of 63 years Sigrid who sadly passed 3 years prior. A husband and father who never failed to provide for the needs of his family while adding zest with dad jokes, grand hand gestures and much laughter. Adored by the community of Haliburton he called home for 50 years and all of his friends. Herb had the kind of smile that reached his eyes and lit up his whole face, you couldn't help but feel it. He loved the outdoors and kept beautiful landscapes while he could. He found great comfort in knowing he would one day have the ability to once again be working the earth with his hands, his faith and hope remained intact to the end of his life. He will be fondly remembered by his children Karen, Cathy, Glenn and his wife Geraldine, Jennifer and her husband Michael. He was a fabulous Opa and will be greatly missed by his 10 grandchildren Kaley, Amy, Michah, Jaden, Taze, Jett, Denver, Bradie, LaKeshia, and Charlesea and his 7 great grandchildren Tahlia, Keenan, Markie, Isla, Wren, Ivan and J.D.

"A true gentleman is one who puts more into the world than he takes out"

Private Graveside Service & Celebration Of Life

A Private funeral will be held graveside for family and friends. A Celebration of life will be announced at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation - Highland Wood would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.



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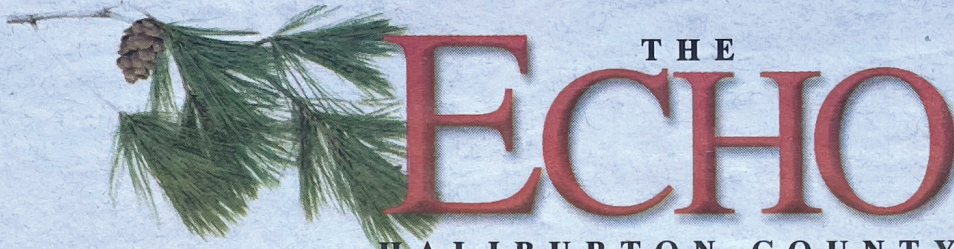
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INSIDE
THIS WEEK:

KELSEY CROWE AN IDOL
Young Minden singer wows the judges at Haliburton Idol contest

GETTING UP TO SPEED
Bell expands high-speed Internet service to three new areas in county

TEENS' TAKE ON LOVE
High school drama students get creative about love for Wednesday's debut



THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

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TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2008

Vol. 125 No. 14 \$1.25 INCL. GST

Highlander of the Year

Theatre founder takes centre stage

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The new Highlander of the Year sometimes sits in one of the comfortably padded seats at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, looks down at the stage and thinks, "I helped to create this."

Caryl Miller remembers when audiences had to sit on wooden stacking chairs to watch a play on the high school's "gymnasium" raised stage, when the janitor would be paid with a bottle of spirits to set the eight stage lights in the right direction.

Eleven years ago, when the high school got funding to build a brand new gym and science wing, she was one of the people in the community who jumped on the chance to transform the old girls' gym into a proper theatre.

There was a hitch, of course. The community would have to raise close to \$300,000 and it would have to do it before the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation launched its capital campaign a few months later.

On Saturday night at the Delta Pinestone Resort, the people gath-

See **County** page 14

GREG HOEKSTRA/Echo



Tuning in to Earth Hour

A darkened Canoe FM studio served as headquarters for Earth Hour 2008 in Haliburton County, with radio host Joan Cameron and her husband, Don, manning the phone lines and sharing listeners' stories over the airwaves. The Camerons say more than 200 local residents called and emailed the station in the days leading up to Earth Hour to pledge their commitment to flick off their lights for an hour in unison with other communities across the globe. For full story see page 10; draw prize winners will be in Thursday's Weekender.

Road projects fail to get provincial funds

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The province's decision not to contribute to the rehabilitation of County Road 21 came as a big blow to Warden Eleanor Harrison.

It might also throw county property owners for a loop when they get their next tax bill.

"It has not been my best day," Harrison said on Friday afternoon, just hours after she got the news that the province wouldn't spend \$1.8 million to help fix the 3.4 km stretch of road between Soyers Lake Road and Peninsula Drive.

What made the announcement worse, however, was the accompanying news that Algon-

quin Highlands wasn't receiving \$1.1 million to repair the Buckslides bridge. "I just can't believe it," she says. "The bridge is falling down" and has been reduced to one lane.

Highlands East was also frozen out of the province's \$450-million Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative. It had applied for \$450,000 to

make the intersection at Houston Road and McGillivray Road safer.

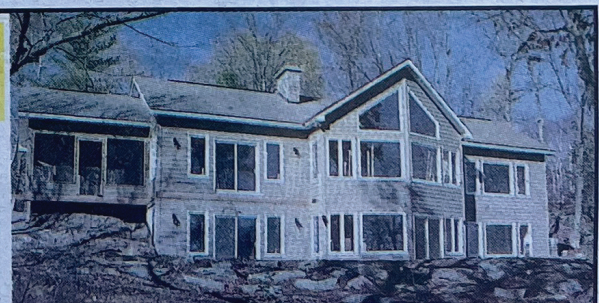
Reeve Dave Burton was disappointed with the news but also philosophical. "I think we'll go ahead" with the project without the provincial government's help, he said, noting that the

See **Haliburton** page 12

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